

Patent claims

1. Use of proton pump inhibitors in the treatment of airway disorders.
2. Use of proton pump inhibitors for the treatment of patients who are suffering from an airway disorder.
3. Method for the treatment of airway disorders consisting in that an effective amount of a proton pump inhibitor is administered to a patient who needs such a treatment.
4. Use of proton pump inhibitors for the production of medicaments for the treatment of airway disorders.
5. Pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of airway disorders, comprising a proton pump inhibitor as active compound.
6. Ready-to-use medicament comprising a proton pump inhibitor as active compound and a reference to the fact that it can be employed for the treatment of airway disorders.
7. Proton pump inhibitor as mentioned in any of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is a compound selected from the group consisting of 5-methoxy-2-[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methylsulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole (INN: omeprazole), 5-methoxy-2-[(S)-[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole (INN: esomeprazole), 2-[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridinyl)methylsulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole (INN: lansoprazole) and 2-[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methylpyridin-2-yl)methylsulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole (INN: rabeprazole) and in particular 5-difluoromethoxy-2-[(3,4-dimethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methylsulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole (INN: pantoprazole) and (-)-5-difluoromethoxy-2-[(3,4-dimethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methylsulphanyl]-1H-benzimidazole [INN: (-)-pantoprazole] and their pharmacologically acceptable salts.
8. Proton pump inhibitor as mentioned in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is pantoprazole or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
9. Airway disorder as mentioned in any of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is bronchitis, COPD, asthma, pneumonitis or pulmonary fibrosis.